

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

Patent Claims

7. (new) A method for user-adaptive dialog guidance for a speech dialog system, in which a speech prompt is output by the speech dialog system, wherein in response to this the speech dialog system waits for an utterance by the system user, for which purpose a speech recognition system is activated in order to understand the utterance by the user, wherein the system differentiates inexperienced and experienced users and outputs a detailed prompt to inexperienced users, while it uses a shortened prompt for experienced users, characterized in that a dialog step with a shortened prompt is initialized on the part of the speech dialog system, after which a detailed prompt is output if there is no utterance by the system user in response to the shortened prompt after a specific time.
8. (new) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the shortened prompt occurs in the form of a short audible signal.
9. (new) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein if the system user repeatedly fails to make an utterance in response to the shortened prompt, the time period for the speech recognition timeout after which a detailed speech output occurs is shortened.
10. (new) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the time period for the speech recognition system timeout is shortened as the number of instances in which there is no utterance in response to the shortened prompt increases and occurs in a plurality of stages.
11. (new) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein if the system user already responds to the shortened prompt, the time period for the speech recognition system timeout is prolonged.

12. (new) The method as claimed in claim 7,
wherein the speech dialog system is configured in such a way that the system user can
interrupt the outputting of the prompt by prematurely inputting a speech utterance.